

THREE COMMANDERS.

Men who would lead European Armies in case of war.

An Englishman Who Thinks It Would Be Profitable to Make a Technical Comparison between Viscount Wolsley and a Russian and French General.

I do not know the new commander in chief of the English land forces. I saw him once or twice in my life, but this was many years ago, and in military matters of the magnitude involved in the supreme command of a great army I am afraid I should prove an incompetent critic.

Wolsley is not a very clever man, but he ought to bring a certain amount of credit to his name, and he looks decidedly clever. If there were any doubt in my mind about his ability, it would be set at rest by the not very enthusiastic remarks in connection with his appointment I read in one or two French newspapers.

It may be altogether uninteresting to look at the two men against whom the English commander in chief will be called in a general should ever unhappily break forth in Europe. I am alluding to the commanders in chief of the Russian and the French forces.

The Russian army contains several million men of considerable capacity; nevertheless, there appears to be a consensus of opinion that, in the event of war, with no matter whom, the supreme command would virtually devolve upon General Gortchakoff, to the exclusion even of General Kropotkin.

Having declared myself at the outset incapable of judging the English commander in chief from a military point of view, I am not going to stultify myself by endeavoring to do this in the case of Gortchakoff. I only repeat what I have heard. Until very recently the chief of Vanowski's staff and Aid-de-camp General Oubroucheff was, in spite of his recognized talents, looked upon as a minor figure in the Russian military circles.

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Walter Luttrell, who looked upon distance as a blood with all exciting exclusiveness. During a summer vacation in his paternal estate he was the sole witness of the death of his father's house.

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"IDIOT CHIVERS"

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